**2**1.00,

5978

0500 \$5

PATENT

MAR 1 9 2002

1163-0378P



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

No. 10/010 055

Appl. No.: 10/018,955 - Group: Unknown

Hachiro FUJITA et al.

Filed: December 27, 2001 Examiner: UNKNOWN RECEIVED

For: ERROR CORRECTION METHOD, ERROR

CORRECTION APPARATUS AND ERROR Technology Center 2100

Conf.:

CORRECTION PROGRAM

## LETTER

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

February 27, 2002

Sir:

Under the provisions of MPEP § 2001.06(b), the Examiner is hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. Application(s):

<u>Appl. No.</u> <u>Filing Date</u> <u>Group</u> 09/358,766 July 22, 1999 2133

The subject matter contained in the above-listed co-pending U.S. application(s) may be deemed to relate to the present application, and thus may be material to the prosecution of this instant application.

Copies of cited U.S. patent application(s) (specification, claims, and the drawings) or copies of the portion of the

Appl. No. 10/018,955

application which caused it to be cited, including any claims directed to that portion are attached hereto.

The materials in the envelope are considered trade secrets and are being submitted for consideration under MPEP § 724.

The above-listed co-pending application(s) is(are) not to be construed as prior art. By bringing the above-listed application(s) to the attention of the Examiner, Applicant(s) do(does) NOT waive any confidentiality concerning the above-listed co-pending application(s) or this application. See MPEP § 101. Furthermore, if said application(s) should not mature into patents, such application(s) should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.14.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

D. Richard Anderson, #40,439

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

DRA/jdm 1163-0378P